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## The Campaign in Virginia.

Beyond the fact announced, that the Army of the Potomac has moved and crossed the Rapidan without opposition on the part of the Confederates, that Butler has advanced up the James River and landed at West Point, nothing definite is vouchsafed the public in regard to the momentous events going on, all kinds of rumors and reports are afloat, but very little credence is given them. It is announced in a dispatch to the Northern papers, from Washington "that there is no reliable information from the Army to be obtained on account of the suspension of the usual means of communication." The Washington Chronicle of this morning in its official announcement of the movement of the Army of the Potomac says: "Even more idle are the speculations in regard to the plans and the action of Lee. The suggestion that he is in full retreat to Richmond may be true, or it may be entirely gratuitous." A dispatch to the New York Times of yesterday says that "A telegram from General Grant, dated on Wednesday, says that 48 hours would determine whether he was to have a battle on the line of the Rapidan or under the works around Richmond." A messenger said to have arrived in Washington on Thursday evening, states that he accompanied the Army of the Potomac until it passed through the "Wilderness," which includes the old Chancellorsville battle ground, east of Lee's army. He further states that General Grant took that route in order to flank Gen. Lee. Gen. Butler in his movement is aided by Gunboats and Monitors. There is a report that Sigel is marching down the Valley from Winchester.

The New York World of yesterday publishes a report that a severe disaster has befallen one column of the Federal army in Virginia. It is reported that on Monday last, Burnside's advance was checked at Thoroughfare Gap, by the Confederate forces under Longstreet. "A battle is said to have taken place which resulted in the defeat of the Union army, it being repulsed with heavy loss. The Federal loss is variously stated at from two thousand to four thousand. One rumor places it at a still higher figure. The battle, it is reported, only lasted two hours. The enemy are stated to have then made a grand charge upon our line, breaking it and throwing it into confusion. It is charged that the negroes, who compose a large portion of Burnside's force, became demoralized, threw down their arms, and stampeded to the rear." This report is pronounced untrue by the Washington papers, which state that Burnside's cavalry had a skirmish at Thoroughfare Gap with what it supposed to have been the rear of Imboden's cavalry, which, in pursuance of this order, was moving down to join General Lee. The New York Express of yesterday afternoon says: "What gives more currency to the rumors of Burn-

side's defeat is the compositions of some portion of his regiments and the condition they were in when they passed through Washington a few days since. Some of them even were so fatigued as to drop down in the streets and others threw away their coats and guns. So we read in some of the Washington letters, and with no motive to misstate the facts. We had not supposed that this part of the Army, with so many negroes in it, and with so many raw troops would be allowed to get into an early engagement, and many on this account discredit the whole statement. Some accounts state that the Federal army, on Thursday evening passed the old Chancellorsville battle ground, and advance the supposition that General Lee was still in his works about Orange Court House, and that General Grant had flanked him, but the Baltimore American says that it should be recollected, however, that General Grant has abandoned his communications with Washington and that all these statements are to be taken simply as rumors, and as only approximating to the truth. The American puts no faith in the report which places General Smith on the South side of the James river. The American also says that Gen. Grant has entirely abandoned the Orange and Alexandria Railroad and has destroyed the telegraph, and leaving no rear to protect. A mail carrier who left Culpeper Court House on Thursday found it entirely abandoned, and for fifteen miles this side he did not encounter a single soldier, until beyond Bull Run, when he met the force of Gen. Burnside, which forms the rear guard, advancing. "It is therefore evident that we must look for our first intelligence from the vicinity of Richmond."

The order of General Meade to march was issued on the morning of the 3d. General Gregg's cavalry took the advance, and were engaged until late at night in repairing the roads leading to Ely's ford. About midnight another cavalry division moved to Germania, ford, and both were successful in establishing crossings. The Second corps broke camp at midnight and effected a crossing at Ely's ford about daylight on the 4th. The Fifth corps crossed at Germania ford followed by the Sixth. The movement is directed against the right flank of General Lee's army.

The Primrose, of the Federal Potomac flotilla, reports that a few days ago a party of Confederate cavalry were seen near Mathias Point, when the Primrose and Teaser opened on them with a shell, "causing them to take shelter behind the walls of an old building, from whence they were driven, one of the shells of the former knocking down the wall."

Yesterday three citizens of St. Louis were arrested by the United States detective police, one with \$75,000 in counterfeit greenbacks, and four plates used in printing the notes were also found in their possession. The parties are old hands at counterfeiting, and have carried on their business for several years.

Sherman's army is likewise reported to be advancing southward from Chattanooga in three columns. The opposing force under Gen. Johnston was at Dalton.

The National Intelligencer comments on the "Accusations of Governor Peirpoint, against Gen. Butler," and says:

"We do not intend at present to recapitulate the specifications brought against this officer by Gov. Peirpoint in the communication he has addressed to the President and the members of the present Congress. In the discharge of our functions as public journalists we simply apprise our readers of the fact that such a communication has been made; that it has been placed in the hands of the President and of the members of the Cabinet; that it has been laid on the desk of every member of Congress; and that it contains charges which revive the worst traditions of military license belonging to any nation or any age. We of course assume, when such formal and precise accusations are lodged by such a responsible authority against an officer in the army of the United States, that that officer, unless he is lost to all sense of shame, will be swift to ask for a court of inquiry to sit in judgment on these grave and particular allegations. If, contrary to this just expectation, Gen. Butler shall rest passive under these accusations, it will then become the imperative duty of the President, unless he too would seem willingly insensible to the most ordinary considerations of political and military morals, to order a court martial to make inquisition into the matters alleged by Gov. Peirpoint."

The Wheeling Intelligencer, of Wednesday, says:—"A man by the name of Charles A. Winters, and another named T. B. Hough, a citizen of Loudoun county, Virginia, arrived in this city yesterday, and were committed to the Athenaeum to await the sentence of the court martial by which they were recently tried upon the charge of acting as spies."

The Washington Chronicle says:—"Heavy stoppages have been made against the pay of certain provost marshals and surgeons for improper enlistment of recruits declared by boards of examiners unfit for the military service of the United States."

Steele's expedition to Sharpsport has been abandoned. The latest intelligence from him, via Cairo, represents him as retreating upon Little Rock closely pursued by Price and Marmaduke, and continually harassed. An engagement at Sabine Forks, had taken place, in which the loss is said to have been "about equal on both sides." It was supposed to be the intention of Price and Marmaduke to attack Little Rock.

Discoveries are said to have been made in Memphis which confirm the statement of negotiations being made between certain parties North and General Kirby Smith, whereby the latter was to secure to the former the Confederate cotton west of the Mississippi river, and receive in return goods, ammunition, &c.

"The quota," in the District of Columbia, under the draft is reported in the Washington papers as more than made up.

Baker, chief detective of the U. S. War Department, has asked to be relieve from duty in the Treasury Department.

Gold in New York, has a downward tendency. Last sales, 173.